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REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of WILTON for the Year ending 31st December, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

The population at the census of 1901 was 7,467, and it had increased at Midsummer, 1906, to 8,182, as estimated by the excess of births over deaths.

The area of the District is 54,074 acres, and the population is equal to one inhabitant to 6·7 acres. The number of inhabited houses is 1,817, being 32 more than in 1905, giving an average of 4·5 inhabitants per house.

The public water-supplies at Bemerton, Quidhampton and Fovant, have been sufficient, and the water has been examined and found of good quality on each occasion. In view of the introduction of water-closets and a water borne system of sewerage at Quidhampton, the extension of the water mains either from Wilton or Bemerton will become a necessity for flushing purposes. The number of houses supplied from the Bemerton mains is 276, and the water-pipes reach already within a short distance of the beginning of Quidhampton.

During the past year 40 samples of water from wells and tanks have been examined. Two new wells were sunk and three were cleansed and repaired. The samples were taken from the following Parishes :—Baverstock, Bemerton, Berwick St. James, Bishopstone, Bowerchalke, Broadchalke, Compton Chamberlayne, Dinton, Ebbesborne Wake, Fovant, South Newton, Stapleford, Wishford and Wylke. The samples brought are much more rarely dangerous than they used to be some years ago.

Samples of Food and Drugs are taken for analysis by a special Officer of the County Council, and no cases of adulteration have come under my notice.

During the year 32 new houses have been erected, and in every case proper water supply was provided, and the sanitary requirements of the District Council were observed ; 17 houses were rendered fit for habitation ; and 70 have been cleansed and lime-washed. Three cases of overcrowding have been abated.

Two hundred and one house-drains have been laid or re-laid, the large increase being due to the connection of the houses in Bemerton to the new system of sewerage ; 22 have been cleansed or trapped ; 30 new water-closets have been constructed and 5 soil pipes have been ventilated ; 2 new privies were constructed and 3 converted into pail-closets ; refuse has been removed from 280 houses by the Authority ; 31 privies and ash-pits have been ordered to be cleansed. Two slaughter-houses were cleansed and repaired. Five animals were kept so as to be a nuisance and injurious to health.

Thirty-eight Dairies and Cowsheds are registered, and 103 persons are engaged in the milk trade and are under supervision.

Fifty-five Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses are under supervision, and 5 were certified for lime-washing.

One hundred and ninety-seven notices to abate nuisances were served, of which 23 are still current.

The streams and water-courses are in good order, and very shortly the sewage of the Workhouse and Wilton will be withdrawn from the river.

The drainage of the Houses in Bemerton is very steadily being connected with the new Sewers. The pumping station and sewage farm are in excellent working order, and, so far, have not been interrupted by any block or break-down. Within a month or two the sewage of Wilton and the Workhouse will be delivered to the Bemerton mains for land treatment.

The Burial grounds within the District are in good order. In accordance with a request from your Board I visited and reported on a site at Bemerton, selected by the Salisbury Burial Board, for the extension of the Devizes Road Cemetery. The ground was well situated and admirably suited for the purpose.

There is no Common Lodging House within the District.

Thirty-five cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year. Twenty were cases of Scarlatina, nine of Diphtheria, and six of Erysipelas. The cases of Scarlatina occurred in the parishes of Wylke, Dinton, Wishford, Bowerchalke, Stapleford, Barford, and South Newton, and were all of a mild type. The cases of Diphtheria were from Baverstock, Bemerton, Barford, and South Newton. In all of these printed directions appropriate to the case were given and disinfectants supplied. During the past year the disinfection has been carried out by means of formalin vapour instead of sulphur, and the apparatus has answered very well. As a rule people prefer it to the old method, as the smell of the sulphur was very difficult to get rid of.

As yet the Infectious Diseases Hospital has not been built, but a site has been selected near Old Sarum. This will not be so conveniently placed for this district, as either the Devizes Road or the Race Plain site would have been. The Joint Small-pox Hospital arrangement on Coombe Down continues as before, but no case has so far occurred to call for its use.

The Sanitary staff remains unchanged. A systematic inspection of the district by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector is carried out.

Among the deaths registered are the following :—Whooping Cough 1, Epidemic Influenza 5, Erysipelas 1, Phthisis 6, Cancer 6, Bronchitis 8, and Heart Disease 9.

The number of deaths from all causes was 105, of which 56 were females and 49 males. Of these 41 occurred in the Bishopstone sub-district, 51 in the Wilton sub-district, and 13 in the Workhouse. The death-rate for 1906 is 12·8 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is exactly the average of the past ten years. There were 13 deaths under one year of age, and the Infantile mortality for the year was equal to a rate of 63 per 1,000 births registered. The average Infantile mortality of the last ten years was 87 per 1,000 births.

The births were 204, of which 109 were males and 95 females. This is equal to a birth-rate of 24·9 per 1,000 inhabitants, showing an increase of 2·6 on the average of the past ten years, which was 22·3.

I append the usual statistical tables and the report of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

In no case was it necessary to do more than threaten legal proceedings.

CHARLES R. STRATON,

Lic. San. Sci. Durh.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE I.—WILTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.			
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1896	8164	193	24·9	11	57	91	11·1
1897	8266	189	22·8	18	95	104	12·5
1898	8351	183	21·9	22	120	96	11·4
1899	8438	180	21·3	15	83	111	13·1
1900	8507	188	21·8	19	101	132	15·4
1901	7467	180	24·0	14	77	107	14·3
1902	7572	180	23·7	22	133	116	15·3
1903	7666	174	22·6	6	63	80	10·4
1904	7727	158	20·4	12	76	97	12·5
1905	8083	159	19·6	11	69	100	12·3
Averages for years 1896-1905	8024	178	22·3	15	87	103	12·8
1906	8128	204	24·9	13	63	105	12·8

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	54,074	Total population at all ages, 7,467	At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses, 1,715	
		Average number of persons per house, 4·3	

TABLE II.—*Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1906 and previous year.*

YEAR.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.					
	Bishopstone sub-district.		Wilton sub-district.		Workhouse.	
	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.
1905	77	42	82	39	...	19
1906	119	41	84	51	1	13

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1906 in the Wilton Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.				CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
				At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
					Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria	...	...	...	9	...	2	3	1	3	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	5	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	20	...	3	14	2	1	...
TOTALS	..	...	...	35	...	5	17	3	9	1

Isolation Hospital—none, except for Small-pox.

TABLE IV.—*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1906, in the Wilton Rural District.*

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Deaths at the subjoined Ages of “Residents” whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of “Residents” belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.		
		All ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Wilton Rural.	Work-house.	Bishop-stone.
Whooping-cough	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	...	5	...	...	...	1	1	3	3	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Enteritis	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	2
Erysipelas	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary tuberculosis)	...	6	1	...	...	2	3	...	4	...	2
Cancer, malignant disease	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	1	2
Bronchitis	...	8	...	2	...	1	1	4	6	...	2
Premature birth	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart diseases	...	9	...	...	...	...	3	6	3	1	5
Accidents	...	3	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
All other causes	...	55	5	2	1	...	5	42	24	11	20
All causes	...	105	13	5	1	5	15	66	51	13	41

TABLE V.—*Infantile Mortality during the year 1906 in the Wilton Rural Diseriet.*
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	2-3 Weeks.	1-2 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes.	Certified ...	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
	Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Infectious Diseases.	Whooping Cough ...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoeal Diseases.—Diarrhoea (all forms)		...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	2
	Congenital Defects ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Convulsions ...	...	..	...	1	..	...	...	...	1	2
		3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13

Births in the year : 204.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 12 ; illegitimate, 1.

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Wilton Rural District during the year ending 31st December, 1906.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Cases inquired into ...	35
No. of Houses disinfected and cleansed	11
No. of Patients removed to Hospital ...	Nil.
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., disinfected or destroyed ...	Nil.
Cases of Illegal Exposure reported ...	Nil.

Houses.

No. erected (if information obtainable)	32
No. made fit for habitation ...	17
No. Closed as unfit for habitation ...	Nil.
No. Cleansed and Limcwashed ...	70

Overerowing.

No. of Cases abated ...	3
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House Drains.

No. Laid or re-laid ...	201
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated...	22
No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified ...	Nil.
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks and Urinals rectified ...	Nil.
No. of Dumb-wells rectified ...	Nil.

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C.'s provided ...	30
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns ...	5

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided ...	2
No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets	Nil.
No. converted to Pail-Closets ...	2
No. Repaired ...	7

Seavenging.

Total No. of Houses from which Refuse Removable by the Authority ...	280
Total No. of Privies and Ashpits cleansed	31
Total No. of Portable Receptacles cleansed	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement Removed ...	Nil.
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed ...	35
No. of New Dust Receptacles provided	Nil.

Smoke Nuisanees.

No. under Observation ...	1
No. Abated ...	Nil.

Offensive Trades.

No. under Observation ...	Nil.
No. Improperly Conducted ...	Nil.

Water Supply.

No. of Wells Sunk ...	2
No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired ...	3
No. of Wells Closed as Polluted ...	Nil.
No. of Houses Supplied from Waterworks (during year) ...	276
No. of Samples taken for Analysis ...	40

Slaughter Houses.

No. Registered or Licensed...	Nil.
No. Regularly Inspected ...	2
No. Cleansed and Repaired...	2

Dairies and Cowsheds.

38 registered

No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision ...	103
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with ...	Nil.
No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector ...	Nil.

Faetories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection ...	55
No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector	5
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances ...	Nil.
No. employing " Young Persons," &c., reported to Medical Officer of Health	Nil.

Lodging Houses.

No. on Register ...	Nil.
No. Regularly Inspected ...	Nil.
No. Cleansed and Repaired ...	Nil.

Food.

No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption	Nil.
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Animals kept so as to be a Nuisanee.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice ...	5
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Aeeumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals ...	1
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Legal Proceedings.

No. taken ...	Nil.
No. of Convictions obtained ...	Nil.
No. of Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed ...	Nil.

Clerical Work.

No. of Notices served ...	197
No. of Notices complied with ...	174
No. of Notices outstanding ...	23

(Signed) JOHN GOULDEN.